



Speech by

# Mandy Johnstone

MEMBER FOR TOWNSVILLE

Hansard Wednesday, 28 October 2009

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## TOWNSVILLE: QUEENSLAND SOLAR CITY PROJECT; ILLIDGE, MISS O

**Ms JOHNSTONE** (Townsville—ALP) (11.50 am): The Townsville: Queensland Solar City project is a partnership between all three levels of government and an Ergon Energy led consortium that aims to identify potential opportunities from the use of solar photovoltaics and solar thermal energy, smart meters, energy efficiency, demand reduction and management, and peak management.

**Mrs Sullivan:** It's a great project.

**Ms JOHNSTONE:** It is a fantastic project. Visitors to Townsville should go and have a look at it. Townsville is Queensland's solar city and the suburb of Magnetic Island is the solar suburb, which allows residents, businesses and visitors to the island the opportunity to participate in this research trial. The local island community has embraced solar city and all that it involves, and is already exceeding all expectations.

One of the aims of the project is to reduce local demand by 25 per cent. Already, exceptional outcomes are being seen with a nine per cent differential in household consumption between participating and regular households. One resort participating in the project has already had an immediate decrease in power bills by some \$700 per month.

The 2008-09 year has also seen 621 household and businesses receive energy assessments, and the installation of 1,319 smart meters. For the benefit of the House, I table the first edition of the *Solar Suburb Buzz* which contains full details of the achievements to date.

*Tabled paper:* Document titled 'Magnetic Island Solar Suburb' [[1166](#)].

By incorporating solar PV technology with inverters, smart meters and battery storage units, this project is giving huge insight into renewable energy solutions that can be duplicated around the state and across Australia.

One local Magnetic Island resident, Miss Olivia Illidge, is also doing her bit to make 'Maggie' greener and cleaner. A primary school student, Olivia has been inspired by the recent death of Whitey the crocodile, who passed away after ingesting plastic bags. Olivia and other students from Magnetic Island State School have embarked on a campaign to make Magnetic Island bag free. I am sure that they will have success.

**Mrs Keech:** Her grandmother is very proud.

**Ms JOHNSTONE:** I know her grandmother is proud. The students have received significant support. Living in a World Heritage listed area brings responsibility for protecting the local environment. Congratulations, Olivia, for showing leadership and initiative at such a young age and for taking on personal responsibility for protecting your beautiful patch of North Queensland.

*(Time expired)*